

THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND EARLY COMPLICATIONS IN WOMEN WITH BREAST CANCER IN A REFERENCE CENTER IN BRAZIL

Daniele Bittencourt Ferreira, *National School of Public Health, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Brazil*

Rosalina Jorge Koifman, *National School of Public Health, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Brazil*

Anke Bergmann, *National Cancer Institute, Brazil*

Background and Aims: The social environment in which each individual is inserted may be represented for the social support. Studies suggest that the presence of good social support have association with lower complications of treatment in patients with breast cancer. The aim of this study is to evaluate the association between social support prior to oncology treatment and early complications after surgery (pain and subjective symptoms related to early edema in the upper limbs) in women with breast cancer.

Methods: The participants were women with breast cancer and that demanding attention at the Brazilian National Cancer Institute between June/2009 for March/2010. Medical Outcomes Study-Social Support Survey was used to assessment of social support before the oncology treatment. The information about early complications was obtained by physical examination 30 days after surgery and was collected in a standardized form for medical register. Bivariate analysis between dichotomous outcome and selected independent variables and relative risks, with CI 95%, were ascertained.

Results: 181 eligible women were evaluated and revealing that those with good emotional and affective support showed reduction of 76% (OR= 0.24 95% CI 0.10-0.57) and 62% (OR=0.38 95% CI 0.12-0.64) in pain, respective. The better material support reduced in 73% the pain (OR= 0.27 95% CI 0.11-0.623). Were not found statistically significant results when evaluating early edema.

Conclusions: The results suggest that social support would be a predictor of early complications after surgery in patients with breast cancer. This study suggests that the good social environment of the patients would act as a protection factor for the development of those complications.